

Message Text

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SUBJ TRUDEAU IN PARIS -- "SERIOUS" DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN US AND CANADA

REF OTTAWA 3421

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LE MONDE AND SUMMARIZED
IN THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, OCTOBER 21, PRIME MINISTER
TRUDEAU, WHEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN US-CANADA
RELATIONS, SAID "THERE ARE CERTAINLY SERIOUS DIFFERENCES--
THERE ALWAYS ARE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES SO CLOSE, WITH
ONE BIG AND THE OTHER AVERAGE SIZE."

2. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS STORY, TRUDEAU LISTED THE
DIFFERENCES AS BEING IN "AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, THE CAR
INDUSTRY, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
AND EVEN IN WORK RELATIONS."

3. ON THE MOTIVES BEHIND HIS TRIP TO EUROPE, TRUDEAU
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SAID THAT AT THE TIME OF FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD

NIXON'S "PROTECTIONISH MEASURES" ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST 1971, CANADIANS BECAME MORE SERIOUSLY AWARE THAN EVER OF THE DANGERS OF BEING LINKED SO CLOSELY TO ONE TRADING PARTNER. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "ADOPTING A POLICY OF VOLUNTARY SYSTEMATIC DIVERSIFICATION, WE HAVE MADE OPENINGS TOWARDS THE COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC, CHINA AND JAPAN. WE WANT TO DO THE SAME THING WITH EUROPE IN GENERAL AND FRANCE IN PARTICULAR."

4. THE GLOBE AND MAIL SUMMARY SUGGESTED THAT MOST OF THE LE MONDE INTERVIEW CONCERNED THE QUEBEC PROBLEM AND CANADIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS. TRUDEAU REPORTEDLY STRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO "BRING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOWARD IRREVERSIBLE POSITIONS CONCERNING THE FRENCH FACT IN CANADA. BUT HE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL BILL 22 FRENCH LANGUAGE LEGISLATION IN QUEBEC WHICH HE LIKENED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAGINOT LINE TO PROTECT THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF FRENCH-SPEAKING CANADIANS IN QUEBEC.

5. COMMENTING ON CANADIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS, TRUDEAU REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GENERAL DE GAULLE "CAME ON ONE OCCASION AND HE SAID THINGS THAT WERE EMBARRASSING TO CANADIAN UNITY." ASKED WHY IT TOOK SO LONG BEFORE HE CAME TO FRANCE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT, TRUDEAU WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "I HAVE OFTEN HEARD A FRENCH EXPRESSION WHICH PERHAPS EXPLAINS THE SITUATION: 'ONE CANNOT MAKE SHARP TURNS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES.' IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE WHOLE POMPIDOU PERIOD WAS A SLOW MOVEMENT TOWARDS BETTER RELATIONS, NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA. AFTER 1967, THERE WAS CERTAINLY A COLD PERIOD. AFTER THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, THE RELATIONS BEGAN TO IMPROVE AGAIN, BUT THAT TOOK TIME."

7. HOWEVER, IN ANOTHER ARTICLE ON THE VISIT, THE GLOBE AND MAIL'S EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT, LEO RYAN, WROTE THAT IF POMPIDOU HAD LIVED, HE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED QUEBEC PREMIER BOURASSA IN APRIL AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WOULD HAVE COME LATER. BOURASSA IS NOW SCHEDULED TO COME TO PARIS IN EARLY DECEMBER.

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